MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 JANUARY 1982

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Saddam Husayn Speech -- In an Army Day speech broadcast by Baghdad radio, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn asserted that Iraq harbors no ambitions against Iran and does not consider it a "permanent enemy," but was forced into war against it because of Iranian aggression. He said Iraq moved into Iranian territory only to protect Iraqi towns; he claimed Iraq has triumphed over Iranian expansionism and holds the initiative, and reiterated Iraq's readiness to cease fire and to hold either direct or indirect negotiations. Husayn added that Iraq continues to demand that Iran recognize Iraq's legitimate rights to its waters and territories, follow a policy of neighborliness, give up its aggression and expansionism, refrain from interference in the internal affairs of other countries and return all territory "usurped from the homeland." He asked the various mediation groups to publicize Iraq's cooperation with their efforts in contrast to Iran's refusal to negotiate.

Husayn criticized at length those Arabs who are calling for Arab solidarity while they are themselves supplying Iran with weapons and funds to use against Iraq. He accused them of collaborating against the Arab nation and said those who are "wailing" about the Israeli "annexation" of the Golan Heights and seeking Arab help against Israel must first end their support for the Arab nation's enemies. Without naming any government, he asserted that it is well known "which party" placed its territory and airspace at the disposal of the Iranian Air Force, threatened Lebanese security and territorial integrity, massed its troops on Iraq's borders at the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war and then massed them on the Jordanian border. Elsewhere in his speech, Husayn observed that the recently uncovered sabotage plot in Bahrain exposed Iranian ambitions to control the entire Gulf region, and he urged the Arab countries to openly support Iraq so that it can continue its battle against this "Persian plot."

Military Situation -- The daily Iraqi Armed Forces communique carried by INA claimed Iraqi forces gained control of the heights in the Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar regions, "crushing and destroying" the Iranian troops there. An Iranian Joint Staff communique, broadcast by Tehran radio, confirmed the heavy fighting in the area, which it said was continuing. Tehran radio's English service quoted Iranian Defense Minister Col Mohammad Salimi as stating that Iranian forces still control the heights in western Iran.

Iran

IRNA reported that eight people were tried and executed in Tehran on charges of espionage on behalf of foreign powers. The report indicated that the eight were members of the Baha'i sect. According to Tehran radio, ETTELA'AT reported the execution of eight Mojahedin-e Khalq members in Mashhad. The radio also said security forces recently discovered four opposition hideouts in Tehran and arrested 264 people connected with the "pro-American and counterrevolutionary minigroups." Most of the detainees have been handed over to the courts or are under investigation, the radio said, but 46 repented and were released on bail. The radio also carried a revolution guards communique detailing further operations against Kurdish rebels.

Jordan

In a speech to the Ministry of Religious Trusts, reported by Amman radio, King Husayn deplored the fact that some Arab governments are "collaborating" with Iran against Iraq. He called on Iran to accept Islamic mediation to end its war with Iraq and said the Arabs must take a united stand agaist Iran's "crimes." According to the radio, King Husayn also stressed the need to guard against those who spread sedition and rumors, saying there is no room in Jordan for sectarian or regional "fanaticism."

Sudan

Khartoum Demonstrations -- SUNA reported that university students staged demonstrations in Khartoum against the decision to increase sugar prices. Citing eyewitnesses, INA reported that the demonstrators clashed with police, who used tear gas to disperse them. According to AFP, hospital sources said one student was killed and two were wounded by police "warning shots" during the demonstrations. In a speech reported by SUNA, President Ja'far Numayri condemned disturbances and violence, which he said stem from the absence of a religious deterrent in both the individual and society.

Unity Council -- SUNA reported that a senior government official revealed that the authorities have decided to retain in custody the chairman, deputy chairman and 3 other officials of the Unity Council of Southern Sudan, but have ordered the release of 11 others connected with the movement. The official said the council had been guilty of "extremism and deviation" in its campaign against the redivision of the southern province and had attempted to involve foreign powers in the issue.

Egypt

Cabinet Meeting -- In a statement broadcast by Cairo radio, Minister of State for Information Safwat ash-Sharif announced that during a 6 January meeting chaired by Prime Minister Dr Ahmad Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, the Cabinet heard a review of the domestic situation from Interior Minister Hasan Sulayman Abd Basha, who said Egypt is united and enjoying an outstanding phase of stability. Asserting that the country has returned to normal, he said the domestic situation is now better than before the assassination of President Anwar as-Sadat. He praised the new realism and avoidance of acrimony that has fostered domestic unity. According to MENA, Ash-Sharif also announced that the Cabinet has decided to establish four ministerial committees.

Relations With Jordan -- Citing AL-MUSAWWAR, MENA reported that Jordan's King Husayn has sent a message to President Husni Mubarak expressing his desire to improve relations with Egypt. According to the magazine, Jordanian officials understand current Egyptian priorities and "limitations" and are willing to hold direct contacts with Egypt.

Israel

Begin-Pungan Meeting -- Jerusalem radio's English service reported that during his meeting with Romanian envoy Vasile Pungan, Prime Minister Menahem Begin accepted an invitation to visit Romania. The radio also said Israeli-Romanian economic ties will deepen as a result of the meeting. According to the Jerusalem POST, Begin declined to accept Pungan's suggestion that Israel seek negotiations with the PLO through the good offices of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Yamit Compensation -- Jerusalem radio reported that Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich will submit to the Cabinet a proposal to increase compensation payments to Yamit district evacuees by 20 percent. Noting that several ministers are opposed to larger compensation payments, the radio said Ehrlich will refuse to deal further with the compensation issue if the government rejects the agreement he has reached with the Yamit residents' representatives. According to another radio report, the head of the Yamit settlements committee warned that if the Cabinet fails to approve Ehrlich's proposals, the committee will break off negotiations with the government and instruct settlers not to evacuate the district in April.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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NEW TIMES ON OUTCOME OF KARMAL VISIT TO BULGARIA

BK061325 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 26 Dec 81 p 2

[Editorial: "A Victorious Mission"]

[Text] Afghanistan and Bulgaria have traditionally friendly relations. The Afghan-Bulgarian political and economic relations date back to 1961 and have continued to progress since then. The existing relations between the peoples and parties of the two countries are amicable and brotherly. With the victory of the Sawr Revolution, particularly its new phase, under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the relations have entered new, qualitative stage based on proletarian internationalism and a new-type fraternity.

The visit of the high-level party and state delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, led by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the RC, to the fraternal socialist Bulgaria, which took place for the first time after the victory of the liberating national and democratic revolution of Afghanistan, was not only the manifestation of the higher level of fraternal relations achieved between the DRA and the People's Republic of Bulgaria, but was also a new factor towards further strengthening, consolidating and deepening the new-type relations between the two countries based on proletarian internationalism and revolutional solidarity.

The earnest desire of the parties and governments of the DRA and the People's Republic of Bulgaria to further cement and strengthen their relations, mutual cooperation in economic, political and cultural fields is well manifested in the joint communique issued at the end of visit to Bulgaria of the DRA party and state delegation.

The warm and rousing welcome accorded the delegation and a number of highly valuable speeches, exchanged between the leaders of the two countries, were testimony to the high degree of progress and development achieved in the fraternal relations between the two countries.

The leaders of the two countries, during talks conducted in an amicable and friendly atmosphere, recorded their high assessment of the fraternal cooperation established between the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the Bulgarian Communist Party and reaffirmed their desire and readiness to make continuous efforts for its deepening and enrichment to the benefit of the Afghan and Bulgarian peoples, of the world revolutionary and national liberation movements.

The visit of great political significant culminated in the signing of several important documents, foremost among them a friendship and cooperation treaty between the two countries. The new treaty is the result of the relations established between the two countries -- ones of fraternal friendship, solidarity and all-round cooperation, based on common aims.

The signing of the treaty is the expression of the two countries' common conviction that the further development and deepening of existing fraternal ties correspond to the radical interests of the two countries' peoples and help consolidate peace and security in the world.

The joint DRA-PRB communique reveals an identity of views on all international problems. As is noted in the communique, "both sides shared the deep conviction that the treaty of friendship and cooperation, signed during the visit, was a historical document, bound to play a decisive role in the further expansion and deepening of the overall ties between the two countries in the interest of strengthening of peace, security and international cooperation."

Other important documents signed were: Protocol of cooperation between the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the Bulgarian Communist Party of 1982-83, basic guidelines of development of economic relations between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the People's Republic of Bulgaria for the period of 1981-1985, and the programme of scientific and cultural exchanges between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the People's Republic of Bulgaria for the period 1981-1983.

In view of the fraternal and amicable relations existing between the two countries, these documents are certainly of immense historical significance and value as far as mutual cooperation and assistance are concerned.

Similarly, it is a matter of delight that the joint communique shows the identity of views of the two countries on problems related to their countries, as well as on current international issues and worldwide efforts to safeguard the dignity and freedom of the toiling masses.

The toiling people of Afghanistan highly assess the successful visit to fraternal Bulgaria of the high-power DRA delegation and are certain that it will further contribute to further strengthening and consolidation of fraternal relations and mutual cooperation between the two countries, as well as world peace.

PRISONERS PARDONED ON RELIGIOUS ANNIVERSARY

LD061510 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 6 Jan 82

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, has pardoned 205 male and female prisoners in the capital and the provinces on the occasion of the arrival of the auspicious milad [birthday of Prophet Muhammad].

The DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium decree concerning the release of these prisoners was communicated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

According to another report a number of prisoners in the capital who had been convicted of counterrevolutionary crimes and who have repented their base actions was also pardoned by the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium.

This Revolutionary Council decree has been communicated to the relevant authorities.

BRIEFS

AQA VISITS PROVINCES -- Brigadier General Aqa, head of the armed forces office of political affairs, returned to Kabul yesterday after inspecting the relevant units of the Qandahar army corps, the Shindand airfield and border regiments in Farah Province. General Gol Aqa in the course of his visit distributed awards and gifts to officers, NCO's and troops displaying heroism in the battle against the enemies of the people, the homeland and revolution; he congratulated them on their heroism. General Gol Aqa also drew attention to the duties and obligations of the personnel and to their further victories in the struggle against counterrevolutionaries. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 1 Jan 82 LD]

GHAFAR KHAN RETURNS -- Kabul, 2 Jan (BAKHTAR) -- Khan 'Abdol Ghafar Khan, the great Pashtun leader who was in India for a medical checking and treatment, arrived here yesterday. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 3 Jan 82 LD]

RAJIV GANDHI ADDRESSES YOUTH CONGRESS MEETING

BK060306 Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 31 Dec 81 pp 1, 5

[Text] Sanjay Nagar, 29 Dec (UNI) -- Virtually accepting the leadership of Indian Youth Congress-I [IYC-I], Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, MP, charged the opposition with encouraging fissiparous tendencies for political ends.

Speaking after the national convention of the IYC-I had unanimously adopted a resolution inviting him to accept the leadership, he said the mantle of leadership involved burden of responsibility also. "Let us together work for a better India," he told the thousands of delegates gathered at the venue named after his late brother Sanjay Gandhi.

Soon after the convention adopted the political resolution, IYC-I General Secretary Vinod Sharma, the mover of the resolution, said Mr. Gandhi had accepted the invitation to lead the organisation.

During his 30-minute speech, which he made in Hindi and English, Mr. Gandhi criticised the 30-month rule of the Janata government as "chaotic" and said the progress made by the country in the various fields were reversed during the period.

He charged that the opposition was attempting to promote fissiparous tendencies without realising the damage being done to basic tenets of secularism and socialism. Some outside forces were also trying to take advantage of the situation. He called upon the Youth Congress-I men to fight these forces with dedication and through hard work among the people.

Mr. Gandhi said there was a need to work hard to make the country economically strong and to implement the twenty and five point programmes.

Mr. Gandhi said during 1977 election a systematic propaganda was let loose against the Congress Party and Mr. Sanjay Gandhi's family planning programme. Now a similar allegation had been made that corruption was rampant. None of those who had raised issue of corruption had so far come out with a single specific case, he said.

He said his party would take action against any genuine case of corruption. The charge of corruption against his party was nothing new and during the Janata rule numerous commissions were set up "to turn every congressman upside down". However none of these commissions could lay hands on anything tangible, he added.

Referring to commissions such as the Puri commission on gold sale during the Janata rule, Mr. Gandhi asked amid cheers "who is talking about corruption? Our friends should look inward before levelling such charges against us."

Mr. Gandhi said it was also alleged that the government lacked competence. He said "we need competent men. But not those whose competence is tempered with expediency and convenience." The party wanted people who had faith in its policies, programmes and ideology, he added.

The political resolution, besides inviting Mr. Gandhi to take up the leadership, also resolved its commitment to work for the uplift of women, secularism, national integration, communal harmony, fight against social evils such as dowry, child marriage, supported the nonalignment policy of the government and to act against all disruptive and secessionist forces trying to weaken the nation.

A scathing attack on the opposition highlighted the 5-hour discussions on the political resolution which also re-emphasised the Youth Congress-I commitment to programmes launched by Mr. Sanjay Gandhi as antidowry and tree plantation campaigns and fighting corruption.

The trend was set by Karnataka Chief Minister R. Gundu Rao who said the opposition was "partyless and programmeless" and was functioning with the sole aim of "Indira Gandhi hatao" [removal].

Mr. B.M. Mohanty from west Bengal said that the resolution should be more emphatic in identifying the "disruptive and secessionist forces" of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh and the Jammat-e-Islami and other extremist and reactionary organisations.

Mr. Digvijay Singh of Bihar said the Youth Congress-I could not become a fighting political organisation unless a cadre of youth workers in rural areas was formed. At present the national council of the party was urban based and it should have proper representation from rural India also.

Mrs. Mary Ravindiran of Andhra Pradesh said Mr. Sanjay Gandhi paved the way for the reorganisation of the Youth Congress-I. She wanted the party to intensify the anti-dowry programme.

The Youth Congress-I President Ghulam Nabi Azad, in his address said that nation's integration and harmony were imperilled by the opposition parties' constant criticism of his party's programmes. He called upon the youth to rededicate themselves to the cause of the nation and fight social and economic exploitation.

The venue of the convention at the sprawling grounds of the Palace of the Wodeyars was named after the late Sanjay Gandhi.

The huge tastefully decorated pandal meant to accommodate about 40,000 delegates was overflowing as the convention opened to the cries of "Sanjay Gandhi Amar Rahe" and "Rajiv Gandhi Zindabad" [both "long live" slogans; the former in the immortal sense].

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, clad in white kurta-pyjama, got a rousing welcome when he arrived at the convention venue accompanied by IYC President Ghulam Nabi Azad and Chief Minister R. Gundu Rao.

At the entrance to the huge convention pandal he was garlanded by "Leena" a 50-year-old forest department elephant brought from Mysore.

Among those present were the chief minister, Mr. Darbara Singh, of Punjab, Mr. Pratap Singh Rane of Goa, Mr. Arjun Singh of Madhya Pradesh and Mr. Ram Lal of Himachal Pradesh. Union Ministers Yogendra Makwana, Mr. N.D. Tiwari, Mr. Chandulal Chandarkar, Mr. Sitaram Kesarri and Mr. Dalbir Singh were present. Party's General Secretaries Karuppiah Moopanar, S.S. Mohapatra and Mr. S. Satyanarayana Rao attended.

The 2-day convention paid tributes to the services of late Sanjay Gandhi and rededicated itself to fulfil the causes for which he worked.

In a condolence resolution, the convention, being held after 5 years, placed on record the sacrifices of a "large number of dedicated workers who were assassinated by extremists, communalists and fanatics" particularly in west Bengal, Tripura and Kerala.

It also praised the services of workers who laid down their lives to uphold the principles of democracy.

The last Youth Congress-I convention was held in Gauhati in 1976 under the leadership of Sanjay Gandhi.

The convention will take up the economic resolution tomorrow and Mr. Gandhi will address a rally later to mark the conclusion of the 2-day session.

BRIEFS

NEW FOREIGN SECRETARY -- M.K. Rasgotra, India's present ambassador to France, is to be the next foreign secretary. He will take over early in April when the present incumbent, R.D. Sathe, retires. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Jan 82 BK]

SRI LANKA

CP, SLFP URGE SCRAPPING OF VOA, OTHER ACCORDS

BK071111 Colombo SUN in English 28 Dec 81 p 3

[Text] The SLFP-M and the Communist Party who met on December 24, in a joint statement urged the government to cancel the agreement to allow the Coastal Bermuda Company Ltd. of the USA to set up an oil facility in Trincomalee, and also the agreement to grant new facilities to the Voice of America to operate from Sri Lanka.

This is the full text of the statement issued by both parties:

"In response to a letter from Mr. Basil Rajapakse, general secretary of the SLFP led by Messrs. Maithripala Senanayake and Anura Bandaraniake, a delegation of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka, consisting of K.P. Silva, Pieter Keuneman and A.G. Jayasena, met a delegation consisting of Messrs. Maithripala Senanayake, Anura Bandaranaike, Basil Rajapakse, Alavi Moulana, Saddhatissa Wadigamangawa and Dixon Silva at Pieter Keuneman's residence on 24.12.81.

"After reviewing the present political situation both delegations agreed on the imperative need for the widest possible united action of all anti-government parties and forces in support of urgent demands such as:

"Cancellation of the proposed agreement to allow the Coastal Bermuda Company Ltd. of the USA to set up an oil facility in Trincomalee;

"Cancel the agreement to grant new facilities to the Voice of America to operate from Sri Lanka;

"Cancellation of the proposed lease of land under the Mahaveli scheme to the Guthrio Corporation and for an assurance by the government that no land under state-sponsored irrigation schemes will be leased or sold to foreign companies or foreign capitalists;

"Withdrawal of the white paper on education;

"Re-instatement, with full arrears and rights, of all employees dismissed for taking part in the 1980 general strike;

"An increase in the minimum wage to compensate fully for the increased cost of living, and the restoration of the fertiliser subsidy and other benefits withdrawn from the peasants; and

"The provision of a specified number of basic consumer goods like rice, flour, sugar, kerosene oil etc. to the poorer and middle class sections of society at fixed and reasonable prices.

"Both delegations considered that such demands, which also affect the sovereignty of the nation, were of such urgency that no sectarian or other differences that may exist among the anti-government forces should stand in the way of the widest mobilisation and united action to win such demands. They agreed therefore, to approach political parties and other forces who show willingness to participate in joint action around such demands."

AFP: OPPOSITION UNITY MOVE 'FLOUNDERS'

BK051200 Hong Kong AFP in English 0555 GMT 5 Jan 82

[Text] Colombo, 5 Jan (AFP) -- Leftist moves to forge an anti-government front floundered yesterday when former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike and her Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) failed to appear at a public rally of "progressive forces".

The meeting, sponsored by the pro-Trotskyist Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP), was intended as a rallying point for anti-government parties in a lead-up to a united front against President Junius Jayewardene's ruling United National Party (UNP) at national elections next year.

Mrs Bandaranaike's absence, political observers said, stemmed from a lingering crisis within the SLFP, which led last year to a major split between the former premier and her deputy, Maithripala Senanayake.

Mrs Bandaranaike now leads one section of the party and Mr Senanayake another, both claiming to represent the legitimate SLFP. She is strongly supported by her second daughter Chandrika and son-in-law, while son Anura Bandaranaike is a deputy to Mr Senanayake.

Attempts to bring the fractious groups together suffered a major set-back when Mrs Bandaranaike's party sacked seventeen senior members, including Mr Senanayake and son Anura.

The internal crisis has revolved round the party constitution and the election of office bearers and party organisers, with the Senanayake group charging Mrs Bandaranaike with trying to assert her will without democratising the party.

The LSSP had discussions with both groups and invited them for the anti-government meeting, but Mrs Bandaranaike and her party refused to appear on the same platform with the Senanayake group she had earlier sacked.

Also absent from the meeting were two other small left parties invited, including the pro-China Communist Party, which are supporting Mrs Bandaranaike and are hoping to form an electoral alliance with her.

At yesterday's meeting, which was attended by Mr Senanayake's SLFP and the pro-Moscow Communist Party, the leader of the LSSP, Dr. Colvin de Silva, called on all "progressive forces" to unite and build a front opposed to "repressive and anti-national elements", an apparent reference to the present government.

Although the LSSP and pro-Moscow CP were one time coalition partners in Mrs Bandaranaike's government, only tentative attempts have been made in recent years to forge a common front because of bitter memories during their earlier partnership.

But since President Jayewardene told his party last month to consider 1982 as election year, though the government can continue until July next year, political observers say there is a fresh impetus for a gathering of opposition forces.

Mrs Bandaranaike was disenfranchised for seven years by this government when a special presidential commission found her guilty of abuse of power during her last regime.

She cannot, therefore, contest the forthcoming election, but observers say her image is still important as a rallying point for opposition forces.

However, after her absence yesterday observers wonder whether she would be ready to forgive and join hands with her former deputy, particularly since she has charged him with helping the government to split her party.

POLICE CHIEF ORDERS ALERT FOR JANUARY

BK071057 Colombo SUN in English 28 Dec 81 p 1

[By Ranil Weerasinghe]

[Text] Police Chief Ana Seneviratne has directed all police stations to maintain a high state of security alertness till the end of January 1982.

This directive comes in the wake of intelligence reports that terrorist organisations in the north and other criminal elements may seek to capitalise on any relaxation of security that could occur during the festive season and immediately afterwards.

All divisional superintendents of police have been directed to run as many mobile patrols as they could and to guard all vulnerable institutions over the next few weeks.

In the north and the east the police and the security services have been particularly alerted to guard any attempts at sabotage or creating of unrest.

This follows the government analyst's report that the chlorates and chlorides stolen from the Manipay Hindu college were ingredients that could be used in the manufacture of explosives.

A special team has been assigned to trace down those involved as explosives experts believe that the removal of microscopes and stop watches indicated the possibility of the terrorists attempting to manufacture sophisticated explosive devices.

Defence Ministry sources told "SUN" that they did not rule out the possibility that a campaign of violence aimed at inviting reprisals would precede the foreign-based Eelamists' unilateral declaration of independence.

"With the 'foreign' Eelamists having as little following in Sri Lanka as abroad we do not rule out the possibility that they would embark on a vicious campaign," the sources said.

However, with the general public not sympathising with this move and the police and armed services having shown severe restraint despite attacks in the recent past even this ploy is not likely to succeed, they say.

Meanwhile, the armed services and the police are still carrying out search and clear, and cordon and search operations in a bid to track down the terrorist group.

The armed services, who have found two of the terrorist hideouts, believe that they have several more in the jungles in the Mannkulam and Madhu areas. While some of them are said to be bases which are well guarded, others are said to be training camps like the one at Murukun where four CID officers, including Inspector Bastianpillai were killed.

BRIEFS

MICROWAVE LINK WITH INDIA -- Delays in overseas telephone calls will be eliminated this month with the establishment of a new microwave link between India and Sri Lanka which will couple the country's telecommunication service to the proposed submarine cable girdling the globe. Test communications in the microwave link are now underway and it is expected to come into operation by mid-January, an official from the Overseas Telecommunication Services (OTS) said yesterday. The microwave link, the official explained, will be connected to the newly established Madras-Penang Indian Ocean Commonwealth submarine cable system. [Colombo SUN in English 2 Jan 82 p 1 BK]

SHIPPING AGREEMENT WITH USSR -- Sri Lanka and the Soviet Union will grant each other the most favored nation status in all matters concerning merchant shipping. This is the highlight of a bilateral shipping agreement concluded between the countries recently. In terms of the accord reached with the Soviet Union through diplomatic consultations, a joint liner service will be established between the Soviet Union and Sri Lanka. The national shipping lines of the two countries will enter into a commercial agreement to share equally tonnage and freight earnings of the total liner cargo moving between them. [Colombo SUN in English 1 Jan 82 p 1 BK]

KHOMEYNI, MAHDAVI-KANI DISCUSS COMMITTEES

LD061146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jan 82

[Text] Mr Mahdavi-Kani, supervisor of the Islamic revolution committees, was this morning received by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and presented a report about the activities of revolution committees.

At the end of this meeting, in an interview with our correspondent, he talked about the issues discussed in the presence of the imam and said: Various issues were discussed with the imam, all of which were about the problems of the revolution committees. A charter has been formulated for the committees so that after being presented to the Majlis the limits of the duties of the committees will be made clear, so that with the relevant regulations the committees which are legal may be made official. We had some consultations with the imam on this issue and concerning the charter, the management of committees and their supervision. The imam issued some guidelines. He also ordered that we should have more consultations with similar organizations and after consultation with the government the charter should be drawn up. In the present charter we have empowered the committees with security and revolutionary functions. We shall present it to the Majlis after the latest amendments for its approval.

At the end of the interview, Mr Mahdavi-Kani, supervisor of the Islamic revolution committees, referring to the 24-hour service of the members of the committees and pointing out that in every organization there may be some shortcomings, said: Our brothers in the committees and in the Guards Corps are, in fact, awake day and night and safeguard the security of the revolution in the face of various events. The people should be grateful to them and, on behalf of the imam, I express my gratitude to the brothers in the committees and the guards.

Mr Mahdavi-Kani added: They are wronged brothers, many of whose activities are not noticed at all. Nevertheless, they work with complete sincerity. We hope that if there are some people among them who have certain shortcomings they will mend their ways. As we have announced in the past, we will punish incompetent individuals in accordance with the regulations. We will not allow anyone to be a member of this revolutionary organization and be guilty of violations.

TAVAKKOLI DETAILS 6 JAN CABINET DECISIONS

LD061354 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jan 82

[Interview with government spokesman Ahmad Tavakkoli following 6 January Cabinet session in Tehran -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr Tavakkoli, what issues were discussed and what decisions were reached at today's Cabinet session?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. At today's session our brother [Defense Minister] Colonel Salimi presented a report on the fronts. Fortunately, the situation is good. The exchange of fire continues. We have the initiative and the enemy is trying to capture the areas which we have occupied; but the boys are putting up a good defense. God willing, they will advance. Our brother [Housing and Urban Development Minister] Mr Gonabadi submitted a report on his trip to Yazd, Esfahan and Khorasan and the construction work he inspected there.

The Cabinet reached decisions on two Cabinet resolutions. The first was that the police have been granted permission to complete their necessary recruitment from their budget allocations for the current year and to repair their buildings. At the same time there should be some economizing so that the current budget is spent on security. The other was about the expansion of cooperatives under the Ministry of Interior, which has set up a large number of cooperatives. It required some funds for its current expenses. This was largely approved.

There are also two bills to be submitted to the Majlis: The Ministry of Agriculture proposes that, in the case of farmers who owe money to the ministry or to affiliated organizations, the basic amount, interest and penalties should be overlooked if the basic sum does not exceed 30,000 tomans. The other bill to be submitted to the Majlis concerns the law governing medical boards. It is hoped that medical issues will be better organized with the Majlis approval of this bill.

The last decision was about the government representative in the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran; our brother Mr Mas'ud Shahidi was appointed as the government representative on the supervisory board of the Voice and Vision.

[Question] With the approval of the bill canceling farmers' debts to the Ministry of Agriculture: Will this also include the cancellation of farmers' debts to the Agricultural Bank and the companies affiliated with the Ministry of Agriculture?

[Answer] As you know, the Ministry of Agriculture has a number of different organizations, including the Agricultural Bank. Concerning the Agricultural Bank and the companies affiliated with the Ministry of Agriculture, there is a note in this bill according to which these debts will be canceled provided that the banks in a general meeting, also agree to it. If the debt is to the Ministry of Agriculture or some of the organizations affiliated to it this cancellation will be implemented; but if they owe money to the Agricultural Bank, the general meeting will make a decision and then, God willing, it will be implemented.

Another point which I forgot to refer to was the fact that last year the Majlis approved Ministry of Health expenditure of 3 billion rials on war wounded, in addition to its general responsibilities. Today, its regulations were drawn up in the Cabinet, according to which this sum may be spent on war wounded in addition to the normal responsibilities of the Ministry of Health, at the discretion of the minister of health or a person authorized by him.

TEHRAN: U.S. BUILDING AIR BASE ON OMANI ISLAND

GF061220 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Jan 82

[Text] Reports say the United States is planning to build an air force base on the Omani island of Masirah in order to use it for landings and takeoffs by C-130 planes. It is reported that this base will be provided with the most modern sophisticated electronic equipment to carry out spying activities in the region. The reports indicate the United States has so far spent $100 million on this base and two others being established in Zufar.

It is noteworthy that U.S. imperialism has been terrified by the escalation of the Islamic movement and the increased awareness of the masses in the region. Thus, by rapidly implementing its policy of arming reactionary regimes in the region and by establishing military bases for its forces, it plans to confront the expanding popular uprising in the region.

IRAQI EMBASSIES USED AS TERRORIST BASES

GF070452 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 5 Jan 82

[Unattributed commentary: "The Role of Iraqi Embassies in Terrorist Activities and Provocative Moves"]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: The infidel regime in Iraq has been endeavoring to oppress revolutionary trends from the very first day of its coming to power after the Ba'thist military coup in that country. This regime's provocative activities have been increasing and spreading steadily. In addition to Iraqi revolutionaries, Palestinian revolutionaries and others have suffered during recent years from Ba'thist terrorist activities and plots.

This deviant network, which came to power in Iraq with the support of world-devouring imperialism to create division in Islamic and Arab countries, has been playing a provocative and destructive role in the Islamic world. Taking into consideration the Ba'thist attitude and policies up to now, it can be said that the Iraqi state has become world famous as a center of terrorism.

In order to attain their goals, the Ba'thists are using their embassies in foreign countries as centers for waging terrorist activities and for hatching plots. In order to implement this policy, the Iraqi administration has announced that any person of Arab origin may enter Iraq without being subjected to legal formalities.

It is obvious that the Ba'thist administration has resorted to such a move in order to realize a number of its ugly objectives. The Iraqi Ba'thist administration is providing certain facilities to unknown suspicious people with a view to organizing and training them to promote its interests. Such people are then dispatched to Iraqi embassies in foreign countries to kill revolutionary people and those opposed to (?the Iraqi) regime. It will be recalled that the murder of a Jordanian student took place after the student had entered Iraq on the basis of facilities provided by the Iraqi administration. The student was killed because he had disclosed that he did not want to agree to the terms put to him by Iraqi authorities, nor did he want to cooperate with them.

Killing or passifying Arab students studying in Europe is one of the important objectives of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime. News agencies have reported on several occasions the murder of Arab students in foreign countries by the hired murderers of Iraqi embassies. The number of killings and kidnappings organized by the Iraqi Ba'thist administration in foreign countries is so high that they have had unfavorable effects on Iraq's relations with foreign states. It will be recalled that a number of Iraqi diplomats have been declared persona non grata. Others have been expelled for their involvement in illegal activities.

Not only does the Iraqi Ba'thist administration desire to crush revolutionary trends within Iraq alone, it also wants to threaten the internal security of foreign countries by smuggling arms into them through its embassies. There are many examples of this. It suffices to refer to the following fact: A large number of arms have been confiscated in the Iraqi Embassy in Bahrain. The authorities in Baghdad, however, argued later that the arms in question had been sent to the amir of Bahrain -- they were only weapons used for hunting.

Meanwhile, it will be recalled that the Iraqi Ba'thist administration sent arms to Iran's Khuzestan Province through the Iraqi Consultate after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran. All this proves that the Iraqi Ba'thist policy is based on destruction and terror.

The Iraqi Ba'thist regime has acted in the interests of international imperialism and Zionism and it is still endeavoring to do so. The Iraqi Ba'thist administration has turned its embassies in foreign countries into centers for murder and for storing arms. A clear example is the explosion that occurred recently in the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut. Lebanese authorities disclosed that the said embassy was as full of ammunition as an arsenal.

All the examples listed above give a clear picture of the true identity of the Iraqi Ba'thist administration. They also indicate the extent of Iraqi interference in the affairs of foreign countries.

JOINT STAFF STATEMENT ON IRAQI ARMY DAY

LD061620 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 6 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 6 Jan (IRNA) [formerly PARS] -- The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran today issued a statement on the occasion of Army Day in Iraq.

The statement said that the Iraqi Army was celebrating Jan. 6th as "Army Day" commemorating the withdrawal of British forces from Iraq.

A propaganda campaign, added the statement, was being launched at a time when the ruling regime in Iraq, which seized power in 1968 through the pre-planned coup of Al-Bakr and Saddam under the guidance of Michel 'Aflaq, has inflicted the severest damages on the army and has carried out mass executions of the best Muslim officers and soldiers of the Iraqi Army in groups and installed a bunch of hysterics as their commanders.

The statement further added that the Iraqi Army which in 1920, inspired by their religious leaders such as Ayatollah Khansari and Ayatollah Kashani, revolted against the British colonisers, has now through the deceits of the Ba'thist leaders, become a tool in the hands of the imperialists. The Iraqi Army, instead of being used against the occupiers of Jerusalem and the Zionists and for the benefit of Islam and the liberation of occupied lands hand-in-hand with other Muslim forces, is being used for weakening the Islamic front and against the Islamic Republic of Iran and this is fulfilling the objectives of Zionism and United States imperialism, the statement added.

The announcement went on to add that the Iraqi Army commanders, by following the Ba'thist leaders, has diverted the Iraqi Army which [as received] from liberating the Muslims from the shackles of Zionism and imperialism, and instead deployed it against the Muslim people of Iran.

The statement ended saying Iraqi military commanders ought to heed what happened to Iranian commanders under the diabolical regime and ought to come to its senses and cease to struggle against the Iraqi regime.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 752

LD061756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Jan 82

[Communique 752 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear compatriots: Some of the operations and battles carried out by the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the past 24 hours are hereby announced:

Fierce fighting continued on the Gilan-e Gharb fronts yesterday. Hand-to-hand combat between our forces and the Saddamist aggressors took place on some of the fronts, and the fierce fighting between the two sides' forces is continuing.

During battles and exchanges of fire on the Salehabad, Meymak and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab fronts, the devotees of the ground forces managed to put more than two tanks and several guns belonging to the enemy out of action. On the Qasr-e Shirin front they destroyed 13 trucks, 1 jeep and a number of the Saddamists' trenches and positions, including 7 occupied trenches. The enemy lost more than 20 people in these operations. The heroes of the gendarmerie fighting on this front killed 13 enemy forces, wounded (?6) others and destroyed 1 ammunition dump, 2 trenches and 1 mortar launcher.

On the Marivan front, the combatants of the ground forces dealt effective blows to the Saddamist forces through a series of surprise operations. They inflicted considerable losses and casualties on the Saddamists on the other side of the Iranian borders. These casualties and losses included the destruction of 7 trucks and the death or injury of 24 Iraqi forces.

On one of the Ilam fronts, the combatants of the gendarmerie destroyed two 120-mm mortar launchers belonging to the enemy and killed or wounded 10 enemy forces. They also killed or wounded 25 enemy personnel on another front in this area. A number of enemy trenches were set on fire during these operations.

Fighting between our forces and the enemy continued sporadically yesterday with exchanges of artillery and heavy-weapon fire on most of the country's southern fronts from southern Dezful to Khuninshahr.

On the Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts, the heroes of the navy returned and silenced the enemy's fire. They destroyed more than 5 enemy trenches and killed our wounded 10 Sammamist forces. During the 4 January battles, eight devotees from the ground forces and one from the gendarmerie achieved the lofty honor of martyrdom.

GUARDS REPORT ON CLASHES WITH KURDISH REBELS

LD061950 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Jan 82

[Communique issued by the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps on 6 January]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With glory to the imam of our martyr-nurturing Islamic nation and with regards to all the powerful and zealous combatants in Islam's battle against world blasphemy and discord, we report on some of the Guards Corps' operations in the fight against the remaining scum of the arch-Satan in the western region of our Islamic homeland:

During the past 3 days, the self-sacrificing personnel of the corps and brave combatants of the armed forces purged the villages of (Hesar-e Qazeminan), (Bica) and (Chezab) in the Baneh area and (Pasai Kele-ye), (Aqbulagh) and (Tangcheh) situated on the Kamyaran-Sanandaj axis of the filthy elements connected to the East and the West. The forces of Islam seized two Brno and one Kalashnikov submachinegun, four hunting rifles and five sidearms. Seven counterrevolutionaries were arrested during these operations.

In Kamyaran the devotees of the Guards Corps clashed with elements of the defunct Democratic Party, killing or wounding at least six of them. The brother guards also arrested one of the leaders of the aforementioned minigroup.

During mopping-up operations in the (Gezgezabeh) region of (Ghorveh), a large number of the members of the defunct Democratic Party were either killed or wounded and one of the armed counterrevolutionaries was arrested.

In Baneh the brother guards arrested several bandits subservient to the American Komeleh minigroup who were hatching plots against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The village of (Sheqy) in the Baheh area was also purged by the combative forces of Islam and seven of the illegal armed bandits arrested.

EIGHT BAHA'IS EXECUTED IN TEHRAN FOR ESPIONAGE

LD061712 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 6 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 6 Jan (IRNA) -- Eight people have been tried and executed in Tehran on charges of espionage on behalf of foreign powers and against the Islamic Republic according to an announcement today. Asked by IRNA to comment on the recent claim by imperialist news media on the alleged execution of eight 'top ranking' members of the Baha'i sect, on mere charge of their being Baha'is, the chief justice of the Supreme Court, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, said today that in the Islamic Republic of Iran no one would be tried for merely ideological or religious reasons. He said that those people had been tried and executed on charges of act of espionage in the interest of foreign powers and against the Islamic government. "There is no discrimination in this regard," said Ayatollah Ardabili, adding that a Muslim would also be executed on any proven charge of treason.